

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 2000095354
PUBLICATION DATE : 04-04-00

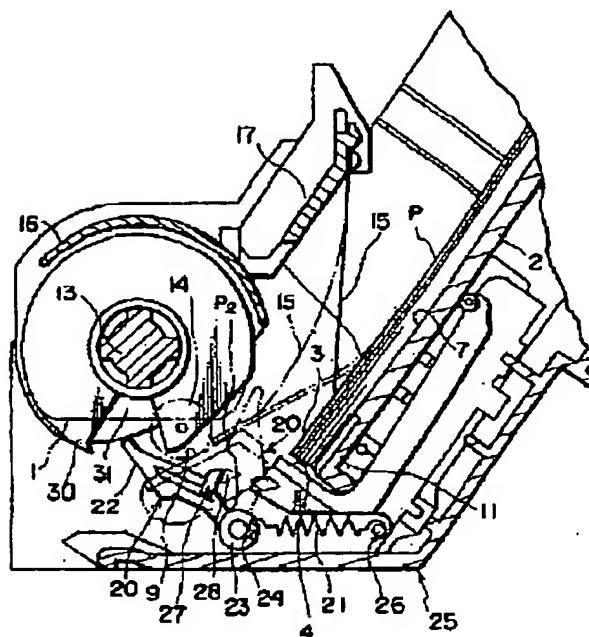
APPLICATION DATE : 24-09-98
APPLICATION NUMBER : 10285869

APPLICANT : SEIKO EPSON CORP;

INVENTOR : OKI SHIGEHIRO;

INT.CL. : B65H 1/02

TITLE : PAPER FEEDER



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a paper feeder capable of easily and surely determining the neutral position of a return lever, improving the sure operation of the return lever, and stabilizing the paper feed operation.

SOLUTION: This paper feeder is provided with a paper feed roller 1 rotated to feed paper sheets during the paper feed operation, a hopper 2 in which a plurality of paper sheets to be fed by the paper feed roller are stacked in an inclined condition and a part in the vicinity of a tip of a forward side of the paper sheet is pressed against the paper feed roller during the paper feed operation, a separation pad 9 which is urged toward the paper feed roller 1 to separate the paper sheet to be fed by the paper feed roller 1 from a next paper sheet by hold-pressing the paper sheet between the paper feed roller and the pad, and a return lever 20 to press and return the paper sheet reaching the separation pad surface prior to the paper feed operation by the paper feed roller to the hopper. The neutral position of the return lever is determined by the tension of a tensile spring 21.

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